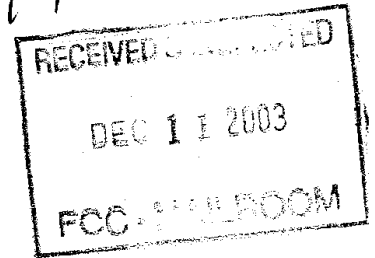




04-344



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DAVID RONALD MUSGROVE, GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DAVID R. HUGGINS  
COMMISSIONER

December 9, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq., Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
9300 East Hampton Drive  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

RE: DA 03-3669  
Comments of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety in response to  
MariTEL, Inc. Proposal to Serve as AIS Frequency Coordinator

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Mississippi Department of Public Safety hereby submits its Comments in the above-captioned proceeding. In accordance with the Commission's instructions in its November 19, 2003 Public Notice, copies of this filing are being simultaneously delivered to Qualex International, Inc., Maria Ringold, Tim Maguire, and Jeffrey Tobias.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

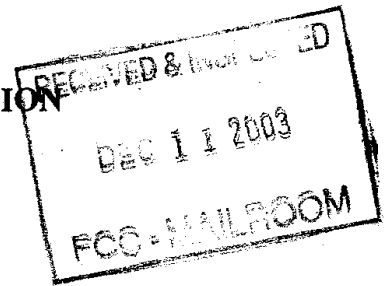
Respectfully submitted,

Delaine Stacy  
Special Projects, Homeland Security Office  
Mississippi Department of Public Safety

cc: Qualex International, Inc.  
Maria Ringold, FCC  
Tim Maguire, FCC  
Jeffrey Tobias, FCC

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BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554



In the Matter of )  
Proposal by MariTEL, Inc. to ) DA 03-3669  
Serve as Automatic Identification System )  
Frequency Coordinator )

**COMMENTS OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mississippi Department of Public Safety ("MS DPS") is pleased to provide its comments in response to the Commission's November 19, 2003 Public Notice regarding the proposal by MariTEL, Inc. ("MariTEL") to serve as the Automatic Identification System (AIS) frequency coordinator.<sup>1</sup>

MS DPS supports MariTEL's proposal to become the AIS frequency coordinator. As the exclusive licensee for VHF Public Coast Service Areas 1-9, MariTEL is in a unique position to provide knowledgeable and practical frequency coordination. This service would indeed benefit both the U.S. Coast Guard and the marine industry. More importantly, the proposal will help expand and accelerate the utility of the AIS information by ensuring its availability to all interested non-federal government entities.

MS DPS has an immediate need for access to AIS information as a critical tool to support law enforcement and emergency response activities. MS DPS can envision several unique uses if the AIS information could be available to our agency. This information would allow real time tracking and verification of suspected criminal or terrorist related activities. AIS information at the State law enforcement level could assist with our fulfillment of the State and Federal strategy regarding terrorism prevention.

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<sup>1</sup> *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on MariTEL, Inc. Proposal to Serve as Automatic Identification System (AIS) Frequency Coordinator*, Public Notice, DA 03-3669 (rel. Nov. 19, 2003).

As a FCC licensee of public safety spectrum, MS DPS has a strong interest in seeing any and all frequency issues resolved quickly and fairly so that progress can be made in the provision of goods and services dependent upon our precious spectrum. MariTEL's proposal appears to be a workable compromise that provides the needed maritime VHF channels 87B and 88B for nationwide AIS use while suitably recognizing MariTEL's frequency rights and responsibilities pursuant to Section 80.371 of the Commission's rules.

For the reasons set forth above, MS DPS recommends that the Commission adopt the MariTEL proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Mississippi Department of Public Safety

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Delaine Stacy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delaine Stacy

Special Projects

Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Tel: 601-987-1447

E-mail: [dstacy@mdps.state.ms.us](mailto:dstacy@mdps.state.ms.us)

December 9, 2003